

# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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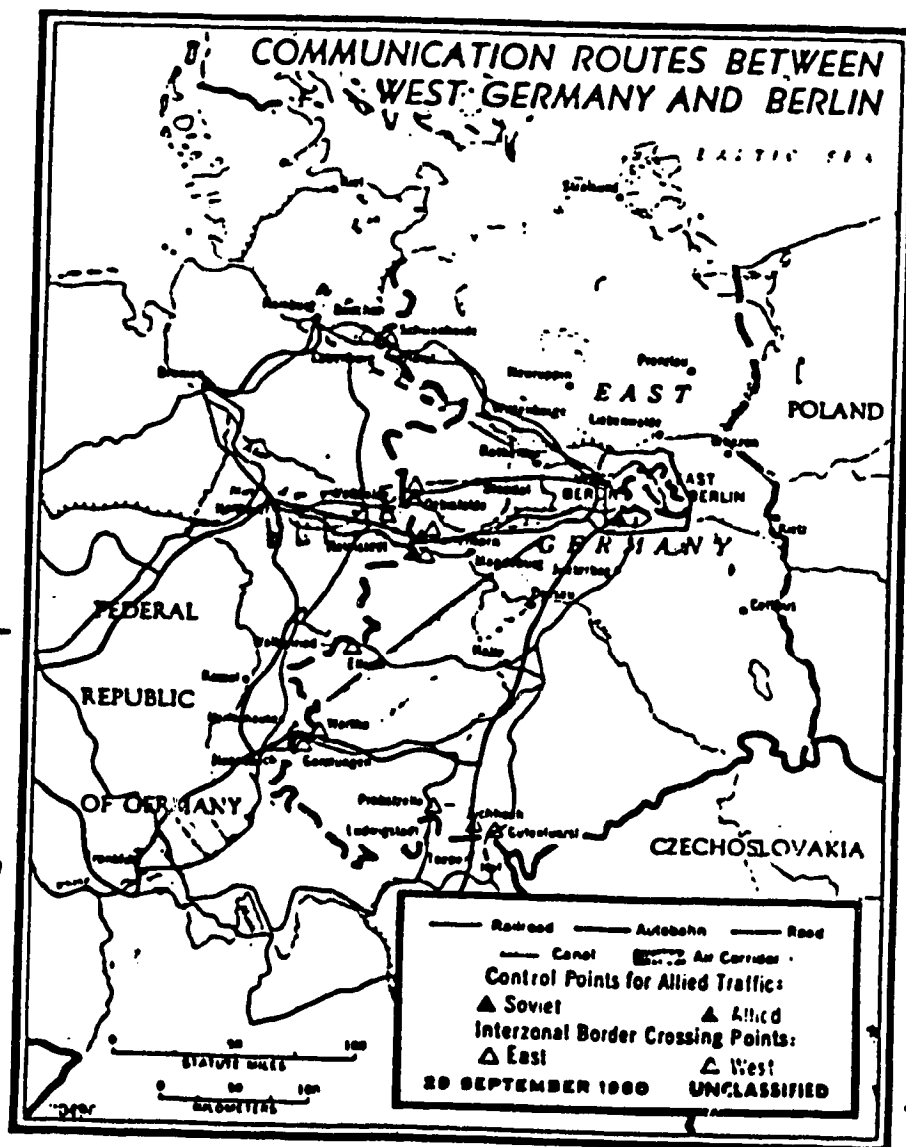
## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### EAST GERMANS CONTINUE PRESSURE ON BERLIN

East Germany continues to seek tacit acknowledgment of its "sovereignty" over East Berlin and to exercise its alleged rights to control travel to the city.

A new and potentially serious challenge to Western rights has been the attempt to force Western diplomats to secure permits before visiting the Soviet sector of Berlin, as has been the case for visits to East Germany. The East Germans are claiming that US Ambassador Dowling acknowledged the regime's authority during his visit to the Soviet sector on 22 September by showing his identification documents to East German police. The East German news agency formally denied a Western press report that a Soviet Embassy spokesman had said personnel of the three Western powers would be excepted from the permit requirement to visit East Berlin; this leaves open the possibility that the regime will attempt to bar such personnel.

to control West German traffic to Berlin. Taking the same line the Soviet commandant took in his answer to the three Western commandants, the note reiterates the charge that the Western powers have misused the air corridors. By asserting



Without giving unlimited support to East Germany, Moscow's note of 26 September, answering the protest of the three powers against the partial blockade of Berlin from 21 August to 4 September, stressed

that Western rights in the corridors are limited to the supply of Berlin garrisons, the note leaves the door open for continued harassment or even Soviet withdrawal from the four-power Berlin Air Safety Center.

the US commandant's protest concerning East German police action against Ambassador Dowling suggests that Moscow may be prepared to back East German efforts to gain at least de facto acknowledgment of the regime's authority in East Berlin over Western as well as West German representatives.

The East Germans have undertaken minor harassment of Western and West German traffic to the city in an effort to probe for weak spots in the Western position. On 22 September, a US Army truck was detained by East German police at the Soviet checkpoint outside West Berlin on charges the driver had violated traffic regulations. Soviet authorities at the checkpoint backed the East German police. Subsequently the Soviet commandant in Berlin refused to take any action against the East Germans, stating that he could take measures only in so far as Soviet officers and troops were involved but not in cases involving East German representatives.

The East Germans are introducing without adequate notice new requirements for documentation of truck traffic entering East Germany. Six West German trucks en route to West Berlin to be turned over to the French garrison were held up at the Marienborn checkpoint from 17 to 19 September and their drivers fined because their papers did not show the end user. This is not previously been a requirement.

American officials note that fines...

lated new requirements for documentation of agricultural products in transit through East Germany, requiring special certification for absence of plant diseases. American officials believe these regulations might be invoked as a legal basis for interfering with grain and potato shipments to West Berlin.

On 24 and 25 September, East German Air Force jet fighters engaged in flight-intercept training within the Berlin corridors at altitudes ranging from 11,500 to 29,000 feet. This is the first known instance of flight training by East German pilots in the corridors, and such training presents a greater chance of incidents. There has been, however, no repitition of Soviet fighters flying close to Western commercial aircraft in the Berlin corridors, as happened two weeks ago.

Bonn is now implementing a few limited countermeasures against the East German economy, including withholding new permits for deliveries of West German goods under the 1960 interzonal trade agreement. Bonn, moreover, is not implementing the 1961 interzonal agreement, which was signed in August.